Department of Energy

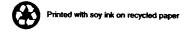
Washington, DC 20585 December 22, 2003

I would like to thank all parties involved for the progress we have made to date in implementing a direct DOE relationship and funding for Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs). I want to assure you that the Department of Energy views the SSABs as essential to accomplishing our cleanup mission. My objective is to insure that the SSABs' independence is maintained in their relationship with the Department. Preserving the integrity of the SSABs as well as maintaining the credibility of their work product is paramount.

The EMSSAB Charter provisions require the Department of Energy to provide the resources sufficient to conduct EMSSAB business. That support, as I have stated before, remains undiminished, and the Department is committed to ensuring that the Boards are operated in a manner that maximizes their objectivity and successes. Further, I encourage you to continue your interaction with the site prime contractor in exchanging or obtaining information as necessary.

A two-step process is being used to fulfill the objective of implementing a DOE direct relationship and funding approach for the nine Boards by October 1, 2004. This process was discussed in more detail with the SSAB Chairs in your bimonthly conference call held November 25, 2003, with the Designated Federal Officer and other federal staff. The sites have already selected and implemented their short-term options for FY 2004, and I have directed that the site managers submit their preferred long-term option and associated implementation plan to me by April 2, 2004.

After carefully reviewing information provided by the INEEL CAB and others, I would like to offer a third long-term option to the original -long-term options contained in Sandra Waisley's October 31, 2003, memorandum, i.e., to incorporate under Section 501 (C)3 of the IRS code as a non-profit organization; or to receive DOE Federal management and support.



I have concluded that operating under a small business support services contract is advantageous to the SSABs and to the Department. Therefore, I will allow short term option #1: "Execute DOE Support Services Contract w/ a Section 8(a) Small Business," as an acceptable long-term solution to implementing a direct DOE relationship for the EM SSABs, and will communicate this decision to all interested parties. The two long-term options contained in Sandra Waisley's October 31, 2003, memorandum remain valid options as well.

If you need further clarification or have any questions regarding my guidance please contact your specific site manager.

Sincerely,

Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for

Environmental Management

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Monte Wilson, Idaho Operations Office
Charles Phillips, Nevada Site Office
James Brannon, Los Alamos Area Office
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Bill Tanner, Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office
Victor Holm, Rocky Flats Field Office
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cc:

Sandra Waisley, Deputy Federal Officer Seth Kirshenberg, Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) Kara Colton, National Governors' Association (NGA) Denise Griffith, National Conference of State Legislatures (STGWG)